

The President's Daily Brief

November 1, 1975

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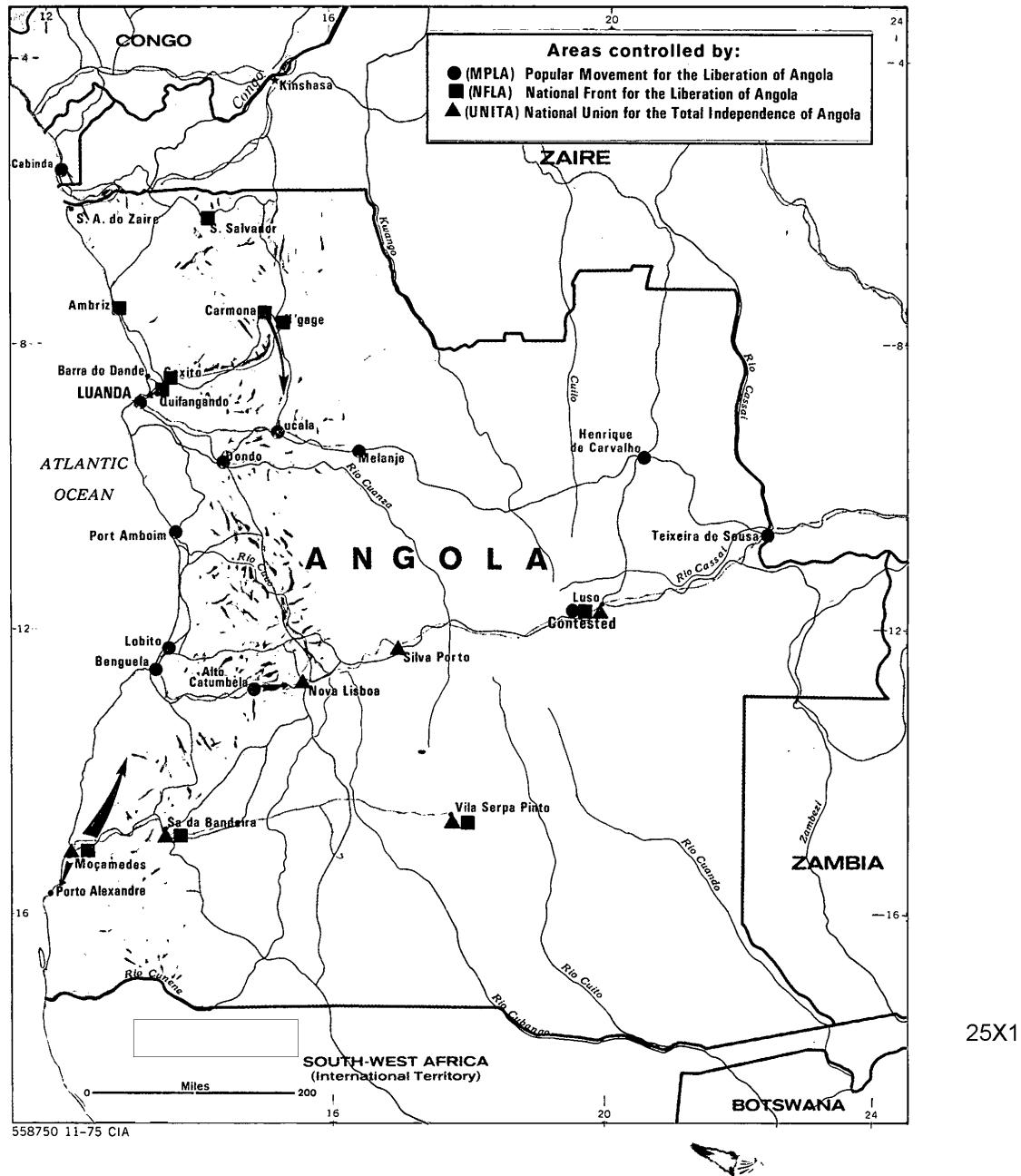
Angola: Portuguese authorities now expect an attack on Luanda by forces of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola before November 11.
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



ANGOLA

Portuguese authorities now expect an attack on Luanda by forces of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola before November 11.

Forces of the National Front, assisted by several hundred Zairian troops, are now concentrated at Quifangando, some 12 miles northeast of the capital. Their advance has been delayed temporarily by lack of supplies and the destruction of two key bridges by the Popular Movement.

Tensions are running high in Luanda. The morale of Popular Movement forces in the capital is low, and recent military reversals may be causing some shake-ups in the Movement's military command structure. Large numbers of black residents of the city are fleeing into the countryside, many of them to escape the mass mobilization of all men between the ages of 18 and 35 ordered by Popular Movement leaders last week.

The National Front also is massing a sizable force and large amounts of equipment near Carmona in preparation for an assault on Lucala. The Front and its military ally, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, are continuing to press the Popular Movement in the central coastal area as well. The Movement's forces there are stretched thin and may be forced to pull back into defensive positions around Benguela and Lobito, the territory's major port and rail complex. [] the force that took [] Mocamedes from the Popular Movement earlier this week is now moving toward Benguela.

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The force reportedly consists of 500-600 troops from the National Union and the National Front [] It [] includes some highly trained [] special forces troops who fought with the Portuguese during the insurgency. A detachment from the force is advancing southward on Porto Alexandre.

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The Popular Movement apparently has made some progress, however, in its advance on the National Union stronghold of Nova Lisboa. The Movement claims to have recaptured Alto Catumbela, site of the hydroelectric project that supplies power to Nova Lisboa.

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PORUGAL

Leftist elements in the military continue to resist demobilization procedures. They reportedly have petitioned army chief Fabiao to allow dismissed soldiers to stay in the military until at least next March.

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A top aide on the [redacted] that the government is concerned that many of the politicized troops will not leave after they are discharged. Some may refuse for political reasons, but others--according to the source--are not anxious to return to civilian life at a time when unemployment is on the rise.

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[redacted] is prepared to meet such contingencies by cutting the pay and food for the discharged troops. He points out, however, that left-wing parties could offer to support those who remain in the barracks.

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All of this turmoil within the military has spawned a barrage of warnings about coup attempts from the right and left. One prominent antigovernment newspaper has taken this a step further and asserts that a right-wing coup has already occurred. Other press rumors indicating that various military elements are planning live-fire maneuvers are adding to the overall tension in Lisbon.



LEBANON

Sporadic fighting continued yesterday in the southern suburbs of Beirut, following disagreements over the conditions of the latest cease-fire. Muslim forces reportedly refused to leave a building as specified in the cease-fire, and the Phalangists were reported to have moved back into the three hotels in the Qantari area.

The Phalangist move could again involve the major fedayeen organizations in the fighting. Since Wednesday, when the cease-fire was arranged, Fatah and Saqa appeared to have been reverting to their usual role of attempting to calm the situation. According to our embassy, the involvement of the less radical fedayeen organizations in the battle in the Qantari area, which began last weekend, came about largely because they were already present in the area as part of the Palestinian-leftist force set up to enforce a previous cease-fire. Their participation in the fighting, in the opinion of the embassy, does not mean the abandonment by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat of his policy of attempting to avoid direct involvement in the conflict.

The violations of the latest cease-fire may be attributable, at least in part, to leftist Muslim and Palestinian "rejectionist" elements who believe their best interests are served by continued conflict. [redacted]

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One result of the latest fighting has been the emergence of Nasirist leader Ibrahim Qulaylat as a significant figure on the Lebanese internal scene. Qulaylat, who controls the Ayn al-Muraysa area near the embassy, is estimated to have 500 militiamen and 1,000 other supporters under his control. The

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embassy reports that most of the fighting in the Qantari area and adjoining areas involved Qulaylat's followers, members of the Lebanese Communist Party, and supporters of leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt.

Efforts on the political front to find a solution appear to have slowed. The embassy reports that parliament has no plans to meet and that the "national dialogue" committee is inactive, with no sessions scheduled for any of the three subcommittees. The new ten-man security committee established last weekend is continuing to meet, but without the participation of the major protagonists, Jumblatt and Phalangist leader Pierre Jumayyil. The continuing fighting raises the possibility that Prime Minister Karami may actually carry out his threat to resign.

NOTES

Our consulate in Ponta Delgada has received a report that a faction of the Azorean Liberation Front might attempt a move for independence early this month.

The source of the report said that the plotters would agree to drop their plans if the Portuguese government consented either to a referendum on independence or to "very extensive autonomy." He also asked the US to "discreetly counsel" Portuguese leaders to accept one of these alternatives. Lisbon recently rejected an appeal by the Front for a referendum on independence, but successive Portuguese governments have made major concessions in an effort to meet the Azoreans' demands for a greater voice in their own affairs. Although this threat cannot be dismissed entirely, it is most likely part of the Liberation Front strategy to wring maximum concessions from Lisbon.

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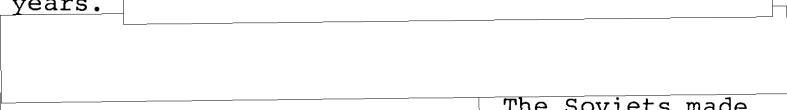
The USSR's decision to allow an official to visit South Korea is a measure of Soviet pique with North Korea, but it does not presage any radical departure in Moscow's policy toward Seoul.

This and other gestures toward Seoul reinforce indications that Soviet relations with North Korea are not good. Military and economic assistance to North Korea has declined markedly in the past two years.

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 The Soviets made modest conciliatory gestures to Seoul in 1971 and 1972 to show Pyongyang that they also had policy options. Moscow backed off in 1973, however, after North Korea protested and took steps to assuage Soviet concerns.

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The Greek freighter carrying a cargo of cement for Israel arrived too late to join the southbound convoy that transited the Suez Canal yesterday. The ship is scheduled to sail with today's convoy.

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